

UNDERSTANDING ISRAEL IN GOD'S PLAN FOR THE WORLD!
UNDERSTANDING HOW TO RESPOND RE: ISRAEL
ISRAEL – GOD'S CHOSEN VEHICLE FOR WORLD REDEMPTION
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Biblical principles which speak to WHO OUR GOD IS! These are Biblical principles which speak of the BIG PICTURE of the Bible – the ONE STORY/the ONE NARRATIVE of Scripture.

- God loves Israel and has made a covenant/treaty with Israel. The Abraham Covenant that God made with Abraham and his descendants is an unconditional treaty. God's delivering on the promises He made to Israel is NOT dependent upon Israel's obedience!!
 - Heb. 6:13 – God obligated Himself to deliver on those promises. He swore by Himself. *...when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,*
- God has made promises to Israel. And, He, being God, will deliver on those promises. HE MUST DELIVER on these promises. If He does not...He is not faithful...if He is not faithful...He is NOT GOD. (Eze. 36:16-28)
- God has chosen Israel to accomplish His purposes on this earth. He has given them His law. He has created Israel (Isa. 43:1) and called them to be witnesses to all the nations in the world who believe in many gods (Isa. 43:10). He has chosen them as the vehicle through whom the Messiah would come (Gen. 12:3; Gen. 49:10; Matt. 1....). He has chosen them to serve as an instrument of blessing for the world (Gen. 12:3; Gen. 18:18).
 - NOTE: God choosing Israel (Dt. 7:6-8) to accomplish these purposes noted above does NOT guarantee each individual's salvation.
 - BUT GOD has a remnant, Jewish believers in the Messiah, since Gen. 3:15. Read Hebrews 11!
 - In calling/electing Israel, according to God's sovereign plan, to accomplish His purposes – Israel's continued existence has been guaranteed (Eze. 40-48; Isa. 66:22). (Dt. 32; Zech. 2:8)

Psa. 121:4 – *He that keeps Israel* (guards Israel; protects Israel; preserves Israel), *neither slumbers nor sleeps. The LORD is thy keeper.*

Deut. 32: God determined the boundaries of the peoples in the world according to the number of the children of Israel. (Scripture tells us that there were 70 – of the children of Israel – who went down to Egypt [Gen. 46:27]). From Noah's sons came forth 70 Gentile nations! [Gen. 10]).⁹ *For the LORD's portion (inheritance) is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance (possession [Deut. 7:6-8 – His treasure – His chosen people – chosen to accomplish God's purposes]).*

¹⁰ *“He found him in a desert land*

And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness;

He encircled him, He instructed him,

He kept him as the apple of His eye (pupil – which needs protection)

¹¹ *As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young,*

Spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings, (taking them where they need to go and PROTECTING THEM).

2

God has held the Israelites and CONTINUES to do so as the apple of His eye...rebellious and stiff-necked though they were in the wilderness and in the land of promise – and onward. Aren't many of us rebellious and stiff-necked?

Being the apple of His eye, they were most cherished. And God's care for His people has not diminished with time. And so, we read in...

Zech. 2:8 – in speaking to Israel, these are Jesus' words...*He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.*

How should we respond when we're told by some that Israel is not caring for the Palestinian people?

Israel has ALWAYS dropped leaflets/fliers on Gaza telling Gaza that they will be attacking...so that Gaza can tell their citizens they need to take shelter.

Israel has been telling the Palestinian civilians to leave Gaza and travel to Egypt.

Israel has been providing food, water, and electricity to Gaza since 2005! Israel has been providing medical aid as well.

AND, Israel has offered to help the Iranians with the desalinization of their water!!!!

Passover Seder – 2nd cup – cup of plagues/blessings. The family at the Seder table is told to sprinkle 10 drops of wine...one drop for each plague. The wine in the second cup at Passover which symbolizes joy is reduced by a drop for each plague that came upon the Egyptians. At the Passover Seder this action speaks of God's compassion for the Egyptians. This action speaks of Israeli's mercy as well...toward those who suffer even when they suffer as a result of what they have done to us! Netanyahu shared this Jewish mindset with the UN General Assembly several years ago!

The Bible is an historical book...about Israel.

The Bible is a prophetic book...about Israel.

Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, was born in Israel.

Jesus died in Israel

Jesus rose from the dead in Israel

Jesus is going return to Israel.

Our eyes need to be on Israel - as we FOCUS on Jesus!

God is setting the stage for His end time plan for Israel and for the world.

Isa. 14:1 – *the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will still choose Israel, and settle them in their own land. The strangers will be joined with them, and they will cling to the house of Jacob.*

As we have read in all the prophetic books – the message of God given to the prophets – Israel will be given their land (Deut. 30:1-6) and there will be a Gentile inclusion – Gentile believers entering the land as well (Matt. 25:31-46).

God tells us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psa. 122:6). WHY?

- God's Name is in Jerusalem – II Chron. 6:6
- All nations will come against Jerusalem at the end of the Tribulation (Zech. 12:1-3)
- Nations are coming against Jerusalem NOW – and have been for centuries.

3

- His end time plan revolves around Jerusalem.
- Jesus' feet will touch the Mt. of Olives outside of Jerusalem (Zech. 14:4).
- Jesus will reign for 1,000 years from Jerusalem (Rev. 20:1-10).
- God's plan of redemption/salvation for the WORLD is ANCHORED in Jerusalem (Isa. 62:7).
- We NEED to pray for the peace of Jerusalem BECAUSE GOD TELLS US TO DO SO (Psalm 122:6).

There is such SPIRITUAL WARFARE connected with Israel.

Is it a wonder then when God tells us that He will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling – a cup of drunkenness to all the “surrounding” people who come against Judah and Jerusalem? (Zech. 12:2)

Jerusalem in this verse is pictured as a large basin from which the nations will drink - figuratively drink - with eagerness only to find themselves becoming intoxicated and disoriented.

The world in the past and TODAY has become disoriented when it comes to Israel/ Jerusalem. The world has gone mad with their verbiage about and hatred toward Israel.

BUT GOD has an EVERLASTING LOVE for Israel – and His plan for them will NOT be thwarted! Jer. 31:3 - *I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.*

Directly before the War of Independence in Israel in 1948, Haj Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, a Muslim leader, relative of Yasser Arafat, declared, “The entire Jewish population in Palestine must be destroyed or driven into the sea. Allah has bestowed upon us the rare privilege of finishing what Hitler only began. Let the jihad begin. Murder the Jews. Murder them all!”

Forty-five million Arabs were intent on pushing 400,000 Jews, bunkered on a tiny strip of earth (one sixth of 1 percent of the 7.5 million miles of Arab lands), into the sea.

“It was never really a contest between the Arab world of 45 million people and 400,000 Jews struggling to become a nation. Those 45 million Arabs were going up against 400,000 Jews defended by the innumerable hosts of heaven.

Israel is the “apple of God's eye”!

